

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

ISSUE 64 30p or donation



**TROOPS
OUT NOW**



**bring
down
bush
& blair!**

war criminals

BLAIR + BUSH

GET OUT OF IRAQ

NOW!



You may find the front cover of this issue of REVO shocking. It is meant to be.

The ritual

humiliation, abuse and murder that is being carried out in the US/UK-run prisons in Iraq is an example of what imperialism looks like. The army tries to pass it off as a couple of 'bad apples' who 'got out of control'. But the history of occupying armies is a history of brutality, torture, rape and murder. The imperialists have even produced 'torture manuals' for their army intelligence experts to use. A book published in the 1970's called 'The Arab Mind' is widely used by prison officers and CIA interrogators so that they can tailor the torture to the Iraqi prisoners, choosing the best techniques that will produce the goods - the information they want. Do you wonder why so many of the Iraqi prisoners are naked? It is because the army prison guards know that public displays of nudity and sexual touching are particularly humiliating to Muslim men.

The prison guards that have been court-martialled for war crimes have made it quite clear that their orders to carry out these atrocities came from high up. The commander of the Abu Ghraib prison, - where those obscene photos were taken - was the commander of Guantanamo Bay before being sent to Iraq. He was brought over Iraq to 'improve the intelligence gathering'.

WIPE THE SMILE OFF THEIR FACES!

Many people think that the US-led occupation is no solution, but a UN enforced occupation would be a step in the right direction. REVO believes that the UN is no solution at all! The UN was brushed aside by the US when it would not allow military action on the date the US specified, but now the US wants it to send more troops for peace keeping duties (under the command of the US, of course!). The UN

Security Council unanimously agreed that on June 30th the Iraqi people will be given back their country and the US would not longer be termed an 'occupying force'. What nonsense! The US is planning on keeping 7 permanent military bases in Iraq; it has handpicked the new government; and elections will probably not be held until January 2005, if not later. This is a sham democracy - and youth and workers all over the world should oppose it!

We fight internationally for troops out now! Revo wants to launch a massive Troops Out campaign which will involve direct action, mass protests and strikes - the aim of which is to get the troops out from Iraq and to bring down Blair. If we can help the Iraqis get their country back then we will be stopping the right wing neo-conservatives in Washington pushing the 'Project for a New American Century' in their tracks. If they loose in Iraq, their whole project will go down the toilet as well.

Over the summer we will be doing a series of direct action protests calling for all foreign troops out of Iraq. At the European Social Forum in London in October we will be seeking to internationalise the campaign across the whole continent. Join us and get involved!

LOVE music - HATE state bans!

Why was this year's Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) festival moved from Manchester to Liverpool? Because the Manchester police (GMP - who are one of the most violently racist police forces in the country) asked the SWP to move it! Why did the SWP cave in under pressure from the cops to move the gig (twice) before moving it out of town?

The fact is that the SWP has a history of asking the cops to ban fascist marches and meetings - one of their leading members wrote a letter to GMP asking them to ban the French Fascist Le Pen from coming to the UK!

REVO has never supported state bans against the fascists because we know that when the state passes laws against the far right, it will use them against us more often. We believe that the workers and youth should be the ones who decide what goes ahead and what does not. The next time LMHR gets banned, it should go ahead - we should organise it, defy the ban and organise effective stewarding of the event so that it doesn't get attacked or disrupted. REVO fights for organised self-defence on our demos and actions, and we would gladly help out with defending any festival that

was attacked by either the cops or the fascists.

To SWP youth we say, why are you in an organisation that won't stand up to the racist state? We demand our right to combat racism on the streets and in our communities.

Join REVO and help us create a militant effective working class anti fascist movement.



LESSONS IN CIVILISATION : PHYSICS LESSON NO 72.
SERIES AND PARALLEL CIRCUITS



OR, CONSUMING MORE THAN YOUR FAIR SHARE OF ELECTRICITY WILL CAUSE BLACKOUTS.

WHAT DO WE THINK ABOUT D-DAY?

D-day, the 6th June 1944, was an historic moment: the Allies sent thousands of troops across the channel to "liberate" France and the rest of Europe. This year it is the 60th anniversary of that day and there will be many military celebrations taking place. In Revolution, we understand the sacrifice that many workers and youth made in the war but socialists will not be taking part in the celebrations. For us the war was about imperialism and profit, two imperialist blocs of countries fighting for control of the colonies and the right to exploit them.

In history at school I've been learning about the causes of World War II. The lessons are totally inadequate, as we never actually have anything explained to us in detail so that we can make informed decisions. For example, we are told that Hitler was fascist and that this is bad, but don't get any explanation of what it actually means. We are taught that the war was a war to liberate Europe and the class lessons have been leaning towards the idea that England and France should have got involved and stopped Germany earlier. This is utter nonsense!

Why should we support the slaughter of innocent people that had nothing to do with the fascist regime of Hitler apart from the fact that they lived in Germany? Dresden, in central Germany, was completely flattened by allied carpet-bombing. The estimated dead were between 25,000 and over 135,000 people. Among the buildings flattened were 14,000 homes, 72 schools and 22 hospitals. You call that liberation? I don't. It is exactly what the warmongers did in Iraq last year.

Lenin said about World War I, "[this] is an interimperialist war. With that war we have nothing to do". We are revolutionaries - we support the the struggle of the workers against their capitalist bosses and state. The German workers should have been the ones to overthrow Hitler, and we would have been the ones to overthrow Churchill!

by Jane in Leeds

GHANA: THE POLITICAL SITUATION

After being under all kinds of government - military dictatorship, one party system of government, etc. - the people of Ghana are now in search of a system governance that will fulfil their hopes and aspirations.

Majority of Ghanians have now opted for a multi-party constitutional democracy as the only political arrangement for their well-being.

In view of this, political parties are now intensifying their campaigning towards the general elections to be held on the 7th December, 2004.

As part of the measures to ensure free and fair elections, chairmen of all the political parties, including the ruling government party, have now come together for the first time in the political history of Ghana to form a caucus in order to create a platform to deliberate on issues of common concerns.

The caucus, which was inaugurated in May in Accra, is a collaboration between the Institute of Economic Affairs (Ghana) and the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy.

india's election results

The Congress Party's return to power in India has stunned the entire world. The left got the most number of seats ever in the history of Indian democracy. This has clearly demonstrated that the people were fed up with pro-capitalist and Hindu nationalist policies of the terrorist BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). During the last 5-years the BJP had spread only death and poverty across the nation.

Nearly 2000 farmers committed suicide due to the degrading conditions and grinding poverty in our villages. Several mills were closed down without giving any compensation to the workers. Anti-labour laws were passed to suppress trade unions. Last - but not least - nobody can ever forget the genocide in Gujrat which over 1000 people were slaughtered to death. India has shined not for the working class but for the few corrupt corporations.

Electing the Congress Party won't solve the problem of ethnic tension in India. The Congress Party was directly responsible for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

This new coalition government is not a better alternative than the previous one. It was Congress Party which introduced pro-capitalist economic reforms in 1990. And it's partners in the coalition, the Communist Party (India-Marxist), has not taken any militant stand to bring working class into power.

Elections in India are nothing but to make a choice between bad and worse. Things have to change in this corrupt country - this the job for a revolutionary socialist movement.

by chirag in bombay

The caucus is expected to build bridges across the political leaders and their supporters to work with one accord in harmony to deepen and consolidate democracy.

The seven registered political parties have now agreed on a code of conduct that would regulate their activities before, during, and after the general elections.

The parties have express optimism that the adoption of the code of conduct would mark the beginning of a new era of partnership amongst them, and also renewed their commitment to the maintenance of peaceful and stable economy in order the transform and sustain Ghana as the beacon of hope and inspiration in Africa.

All the parties agreed that Ghana could only continue to be a beacon of hope in the sub-region if the people made great efforts to deepen democracy.

Meanwhile, the ruling New Patriotic Party has declared that a landslide victory in this year's election is the avowed aim of the party.

On the other hand, the largest opposition, National Democratic Congress, has also vowed to recapture all the parliamentary seats they lost in the December 2000 elections.

Watch this space for updates...

by charles in ghana

ABORTION RIGHTS - UNDER ATTACK!



A fight between pro and anti-abortion activists in the US

Sunday April 25 2004 saw the world's biggest ever demonstration in defence of women's rights, as over 1.1 million women and men, young and old, of all races marched to defend women's abortion rights in the US and to improve access to reproductive education and healthcare worldwide. The first march of its kind in 12 years, the March for Women's Lives was called in the face of attacks on reproductive rights all over the world led by George W Bush in the White House.

Since the Chimp came to power, the right to abortion has been under a bigger threat than at any time since abortion was made legal in the US. Driven by the religious right, the Bush administration has launched wave after wave of attacks on women's rights. They have restricted access to emergency contraception by making the morning-after-pill a prescription drug. In America's private healthcare system, this means that women first have to pay to see a doctor who will prescribe it to them, and then pay for the drug itself. This is especially damaging to young women and women from poor backgrounds who might struggle to find the money.

One of the first things Bush did was to ban NGOs and charities from receiving government funding if they used this - or any other funding - to provide abortion services.

The most direct attack on women's lives by this "pro-life" President has been the continuous attempts to ban some late-term abortions. This procedure is only used in extreme cases where the woman's life is in danger because of a seriously malformed foetus. Now women may suffer infertility due to unnecessary abdominal surgery to remove a foetus so malformed it has no chance of life, or die trying to give birth to it. This ban is a severe attack on women's control over their own bodies.

Here in the UK the press have regularly anti-abortion articles. Last month the Daily Mail reported a mother's fury that her daughter had had an abortion without her knowing. The girl, who is 14, had the abortion after receiving advice from health workers at her school. Rather than respecting and supporting the young woman's decision, her mother and the newspapers attacked the school and its health workers!

As these attacks on women's rights increase, all those who are in favour of a woman's right to choose and to have control over her own body should be fighting back and standing up for what those before us fought so hard and long for. And yet instead we see so-called "socialists" in RESPECT avoiding the issue at all costs to win votes. What the "pro-lifers" don't tell you is that laws against abortion kill women. It is clear that outlawing abortions doesn't

stop them; it just moves them from safe, hygienic medical environments to dangerous back-street rip-off merchants. Before abortion became legal, millions of women were forced to go to such places; thousands died, and tens of thousands were left mutilated and infertile. Available legal abortion prevents horrors like these - and protects women whose lives would be jeopardised if forced to go through childbirth, from conditions ranging from sickle-cell anaemia to heart disease.

The anti-abortionists would have us believe that not only is a foetus a "person like the rest of us", but is superior to a woman and should have more rights than the woman. This argument serves to diminish women and is based on religious dogma. Abortion is also integral to the equality of women in society; after all, being a mother is just one option for women. Put simply, to be able to choose a safe, legal abortion makes many other options possible. Otherwise an accident or a rape can end a woman's economic and personal freedom.

Look at the situation in Ireland where it is accepted by women that if you want an abortion you must go to Britain. This is discriminatory against poorer, working-class women who may not be able to afford to go to England, and young women who may be able neither to afford to go or to escape their parents for that time. These women are then driven to a dangerous self-induced or back-alley abortion as the only option open to them - while the rich can travel wherever necessary to obtain an abortion.

The anti-abortionists have a larger goal than just to ban abortions. They oppose policies that can help women achieve equality and freedom, and instead seek a return to the days when women had few choices controlling their future. They think that allowing abortion gives too much freedom. They think that even contraception is too liberating, that women cannot be trusted to make their own decisions. And they think that a woman should be subservient to her ability to reproduce.

As attacks on women's rights increase, we must fight back. Socialists cannot stand by silently as women's equality and freedom is under threat, we have to counter the lies of the religious right, and mobilise women and men to stand up for the majority and repel them. We must demand free contraception and abortion on demand, enabling women to make their own decisions about whether they want to have children.

by Tom in Liverpool



by Don
Schlong De
Marco in
newcastle

Unified , Dignified, Solidified.
Radicals side by side
Insurrecting incision
wining the mission from the inside
Working masses,
heading clashes wining by a landslide
But tonight their might collectively learns the lessons of divide
And rule no longer will they be the tool
no longer will wool be pulled over their eyes ,
prepared for any counter coup with meticulous foresight
armed with militias, organisations shit tight
prepared to shock and awe

in their fight defending what is their right to take the world is theirs to
share for goodness sake they been struggling for a long time,
it,s no crime to use violence to get their stake of real world order
a world without borders
taking back the land from the global hoarders

free of dogma bibles, avatars and torahs and free global markets disorder
so take aim if the enemy's lurking at the corner
pacifism limits us in taking us forward
listen to the lessons history taught us,

self defence is no offence when your fighting for freedom with such eloquence,
fundamentally right not heavenly sent bullshit
like taking up arms cos your god,s servants
We,re persevering the future of humanity,
and that's why a mutiny is
essential to progress via praxis and scrutiny
of conflicts the world over,

if the truth be known we me analyse the plans so we can take over Power structure,
control of them will fluctuate
between the classes as we strive to set up a workers state,
democratic decisions made by recallable delegates

So don't hesitate to think it's not within our means, it is time to agitate for revolution
by any means necessary
we need idealists as..... pessimists there are plenty, plenty, plenty.

This month we celebrate resistance through poetry!

A CIVIL SERVICE POEM

Ten Civil Servants standing in a line
One of them was downsized
then there were nine.

Nine Civil Servants who must negotiate,
One joined the union,
then there were eight:

Eight Civil Servants thought they were in heaven,
'til one of them was redeployed
then there were seven.

Seven Civil Servants, their jobs as safe as bricks
But one was reclassified
then there were six,

Six Civil Servants trying to survive,
One of them was privatised,
then there were five.

Five Civil Servants ready to give more,
But one Golden Handshake
reduced them to four.

Four Civil Servants full of loyalty,
Their jobs were all advertised
then there were three.

Three Civil Servants under review,
One left on secondment
then there were two

Two Civil Servants coping on the run,
One went on stress leave
then there was one,

The last Civil Servant agreed to relocate,
Replaced by 10 consultants at twice the hourly
rate!!

by dave from clapham

what are...

TRADE

In the past few months trade unions have started to make the news headlines. From the civil service (PCS) strike in February, the RMT voting to strike on the trains in May, and the Manchester firefighters (FBU) dispute, there is a real upsurge in workers' activism. But apart from a bunch of acronyms and media scare stories, what do the trade unions do and what is their relation to the masses of workers?

At a basic level, trade unions exist as a way that workers can join together to protect or improve their conditions at work. This class struggle - between the ruling class (bosses) and the working class - goes on every day. The bosses make attacks on workers by cutting wages, changing conditions of work and generally making things worse in order to increase their profit margin. When workers have their wages or working conditions attacked one of the main ways of fighting back is by withdrawing labour, or 'going on strike'.

Across the world, striking workers set up picket lines outside their work places and try, and convince other workers not to cross the picket lines to support them in the dispute. Workers who do cross the picket line and carry on working when there is a strike are called 'scabs' - they are helping the boss by breaking the strike. Trade unions can call for solidarity to encourage other workers to unite to defend themselves and their jobs and communities. Some unions have been at the forefront of fighting for women's rights and against racism and homophobia.

The most famous recent instance when the class struggle escalated was the miners' strike twenty years ago. The NUM (National Union of Miners) launched a fight against job losses that involved pitched battles against the police, protectors of the capitalist state. When the police

mobilise in such numbers there must be something the bosses are scared of!

But throughout the 80's, Thatcher systematically took on and defeated the most militant unions. Jobs were lost everywhere - moved to areas where the bosses could find even cheaper workers so they could make more profit. These massive defeats in the 80's still has enormous repercussions today. Trade unions today are far more cautious as a result. In a documentary about the miners strike aired on the BBC, one of Thatcher's aides put it this way: 'Before Thatcher, it was the unions who ran the country. Since Thatcher it has been the government who are in charge.' And we all know how well the government's been running things, don't we?

Despite the defeats of the unions in the 1980's, the bosses still fear them. Even when the firefighters were just doing one day strikes in 2002 (nothing in time compared to strikes in the 70s), the Sun would spread hysteria with a front page frenzy about houses burning down, or cats left in trees, or whatever it could come up with to try and damage public support for the strike.

The bosses' fear of the unions comes from the potential power they have. The working class is the only class that historically has a material interest in - and the ability to smash - capitalism. Capitalism has at its heart an inherent contradiction between the interests of the bosses and the workers. In order to maintain their privilege, the bosses must exploit workers as much as possible. Conversely, in order to be free workers must get rid of the bosses. It is this contradiction of interest that drives class struggle in capitalism.

The unions pose such a threat to the bosses because it is proof that where people are commonly exploited (the workplace) they are not isolated and not working weakly and autonomously, one by one - but can act collectively as a mass and as a class.

The growing wave of trade union action that we are seeing now is directly a result of the right wing policies carried out by the New Labour government. Years of privatisation, pay cuts and public spending cuts - all of which are geared towards making life easier for big businesses - are being met with opposition.

The RMT strike over pay and pensions, for example, is an important struggle. But it could be even more powerful and even more capable if, instead of just looking at the pensions of train workers which are under threat (and are obviously important), the RMT got together with unions



UNIONS?

and workers across the country and took on the bosses over pensions which are being attacked across the board. There is nothing inherently different between the decimation of a train drivers pension and the decimation of anyone else's pension. This does not mean that the RMT are wrong to demand a decent pension from the bosses, but that only action taken by the entire working class can lead to a victory for the entire class.

POLITICAL ACTION!

But Revolution does not think that the unions should just fight for economic demands - they should fight political battles as well! This includes striking against imperialist wars or taking action against the fascists. One union that is taking action against the BNP are the postal workers union, the CWU. After postal workers in South Wales refused to deliver the racist, anti working class BNP election leaflets, the union backed the workers taking action. Since then, postal workers all across the UK have been taking part in similar action. This move by the CWU should be applauded - although obviously a much better option would've been for the union to ban the distribution of fascist leaflets altogether. The two cases above show the need for workers to unite their struggles and take on political goals, but with no united platform that workers can use to unite their struggles and to take up their cause, there isn't much of an effective means by which this can be achieved. What is necessary for this to happen is for a New Workers' Party to be formed.

100 years ago the trade unions got together and formed the Labour Party. Although the Labour Party has consistently had anti- working class policies, its base has always been the trade unions. But now things are starting to change. In Scotland, RMT branches decided to support the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP) and the Labour Party has expelled the RMT from its ranks. At the same time as this, there is a whole generation of people who were born or brought up during or after Thatcher who have no political allegiance to Labour as a political party. There is a definite break from 'Labourism' within sections of the working class. What has to happen now is for that break to go somewhere - it has to move towards a New Workers' Party that is democratic and can represent our views - the views of the working class - and our interests properly. Within this new party we, as revolutionary socialists, will fight for our politics as only socialism is the answer - and only revolution can bring about socialism.

But there is still an obstacle within the unions that is blocking the way both to this New Workers' Party and to victory for the membership in their disputes. This obstacle is the bureaucracy. Union leaders are sometimes paid ten times what their members get - their lifestyles are closer to those of the bosses than their members! The

by josh in baltic*

leadership are in many cases too comfortable with their relationship with the Labour Party and their positions within the union to put up any real fight. This happened in the firefighters strike when Andy Gilchrist brokered a deal with management that was a far cry from the 40% pay increase that the FBU had originally demanded. The new conditions in this deal led to the pay dispute in Manchester, which was again solved with another deal with management. These deals don't mean any kind of a victory for the workers, just damage limitation.

Last year two of the most successful strikes in the country, the postal workers and the Heathrow baggage handlers strikes, were organised unofficially - 'wildcat' strikes. Because the workers put such a huge amount of pressure on the bosses and the TU leaders, it made any attempt by the leadership to sell them out very difficult. Union leaders should be put to the test when elected - if a union leader proves to be too cowardly and right wing, they should be replaced! Workers must organise rank and file bodies that can take control of any strike; the strike committees should made up of ordinary members that can lead the action better than any bureaucrat.

Today we are faced by a huge problem: there are thousands of supermarkets, cafes, call centres etc where youth are being exploited day in day out, but in these workplaces, and within youth today, there is no tradition of trade unionism. REVO fights for unionisation in these workplaces and for youth to play a leading role in the struggle for recognition. Even though the defeats of the '80s and the media may make trade unionism seem outdated, nobody wants to have low pay, no one wants to work in bad conditions, and ultimately no one wants to be exploited. It is because of this that we need to be united in struggle against the bosses.



VIVA RED LEICESTER!

Around October 2003, when I first joined REVO, it wasn't so easy to be a really active member. I was the only REVO member in Leicester, and I had to compete with the "run for European elections on non-working class and non-socialist politics" SWP and the "never mention the need for a revolution" Socialist Party for new recruits. I was pretty isolated with most of my political activity coming through conversations on the internet.

Things started to change a month later, when a comrade from Sheffield came down to meet with me. It was extremely useful, and the few hours I spoke with him, I was able to get any questions about Socialism answered - and he had also brought with him copies of REVO, a few manifestos and a large stack of stickers. That's when I knew REVO was for me, and that I was going to do everything I could to build REVO in Leicester.

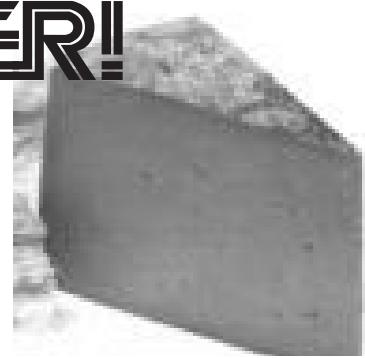
Soon into the New Year, a comrade from London came to help me do a stall. We got loads of support and interest, and we had managed to sell massive amounts of mags and other literature.

Around that time, Leicester became a pretty militant place to be. Militant working-class action at it's finest - with many colleges in Leicester on strike, the University lecturers on strike, as well as big demos against council cuts. On one of these demos I met Tim - he decided to join Revo and together we set about building Revo Leicester.

Leicester REVO continued to grow, do stalls, graffiti, fly-postering and petitions. Nearly every weekend we would be in the city centre, handing out leaflets and raising awareness about REVO, our campaigns and politics.

Leicester REVO now has lots of active members and it's still growing. We've planned our first meeting on the 12th of June, to coincide with a pro-asylum seeker action that is being organised. Leicester REVO also has plans to help the founding of Leicester's very own social forum. The growth of REVO Leicester could not have happened without the support of everyone from REVOLUTION across the UK who have provided all sorts of practical and political help.

If we can do it in Leicester then so can you! Get involved, look for help from Revo branches across the country and be a part of an international movement that can really bring down capitalism. Revolution is still a small group but we do have great opportunities for growth if we all pull together. Leicester Revo is an example of how it is possible to build a REVO group in your own area. To find out more about groups near you or how you can set up a group in your area email us at info@worldrevolution.org.uk and we will put you in touch with your nearest Revo group or provide you with the materials to build your own. Ai carumba!!!



By Sham - the
king of cheese

Exams, exams, exams...

From the moment we start primary school to the moment we leave school, college or university, everything we are taught in our education is based upon exams. SATS, GCSEs, A-Levels, AS levels and more... increasingly the teacher's job has been not to provide their students with the broad education that they deserve, but to teach them just enough to get them through the next set of exams.

The exam system does not - like the government would have you believe - have the best interests of students at heart. It does, however, enable the state to directly control almost everything that is taught at school, through a strictly non-flexible national curriculum.

Putting children and youth is under such pressure, especially at young ages, is oppressive. A student works for two or three years to learn the course for an exam, gets stressed and demotivated, takes the exam, immediately begins the courses for the next set of exams, and is not encouraged to try and remember what they have already learned after the exams. Education should be designed not just to help people live their future lives but also to help youth and children in the here and now.

This system is perfect for the capitalists who want an education system that churns out drones ready for the production line or the office desk. They're not interested in developing thinking, critical workers with a real under-

standing of the world and how it works. They're not interested in presenting education as something to be made interesting and enjoyable, education that develops critical thinking and an interest in art, science and popular culture. No - they want a system that teaches nothing more than the regurgitation of facts and figures and strict obedience to the system.

A school's priority should be helping each student to reach their full potential. The exam system only works to divide students between the academic and successful and those who are perceived to be 'failures' if they do not get the right grades. It means that 0.001% of the population can be given posh well paid jobs after graduating from



Oxbridge with the rest condemned to a life of long hard work with no prospect of even a pension anymore! Even getting good grades now is no guarantee of a decent job.

The exam system does not need yet another reform. It needs to be completely removed and replaced with a more flexible system that recognises and responds to students' talents and interests.

Revolution believes that democratically elected committees of students and teachers should decide what is taught, not government bureaucrats.

Tribal People Facing Submergence in India

BY MARIANNE - BRIGHTON

(RECENTLY RETURNED FROM INDIA)

In the valley of the Narmada river in central India, there is a conflict between two visions of the world. On one side of the conflict is the Narmada Dam Project, a massive hydroelectric dam that once claimed the title of the world's largest dam; and on the other side, the Adivasi people who live in the villages along this holy river. The Adivasis are the indigenous people of the Narmada Valley, and since the start of the Narmada Dam project over thirty years ago, thousands of them have been forcefully evicted from their land and their homes by the government in the name of 'progress' and 'development'. Through their resistance, the Adivasis have built one of the strongest indigenous movements in India and the world. Nevertheless, today they are once again facing eviction, arrest and beatings at the hands of the Indian government.

On the 23rd of May, the administration and police force surrounded, beat up, chased away, dragged and arrested 125 tribal men and women affected by the Upper Beda dam, which is to be built on the river Beda in Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh. Those arrested included 77 men and 47 women. Especially the Adivasi women were beaten up badly during the arrests. Several hundred other protesters were chased and dispersed. The heavy-handed way that the administration wreaked repression on the Adivasis, already faced with uprootment and eventual destitution because of the dam, clearly shows that the intention of the government is to substitute rehabilitation and necessary democratic response to the legitimate demands of the people with violent attacks.

On the 13th of March the Narmada Control Authority declared its intentions to increase the current height of the Sardar Sarovar Project (one of the largest dams in the Narmada Valley) from 100 metres to 110.64 metres. For thousands of families living in the already flooded valley, this increase will mean either homelessness or death, unless the government fulfils their legal obligation to provide land-for-land resettlement packages to the 11,500 families who live in the submergence zone at 110 metres. However, the government of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have not made any such arrangements and they do not even have an accurate list of how many families will be affected. For those who have been resettled during past construction phases, the quality of life has dropped dramatically; they have received little more than infertile land, tin shacks to live in and a hard introduction into the world of wage labour and financial instability. The simple fact is that there is no unused fertile land in India, one of the most populated countries in the world. And there is certainly not enough for tens of thousands of families.

But the Adivasis are not accepting their fate without a fight. The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA, Narmada People's Movement) has started an indefinite 'satyagraha'. Hundreds of displaced tribal people are risking submergence to occupy the land and are refusing to leave until construction on the dam stops or until adequate rehabilitation sites are found. In addition to their satyagraha, they have started preparing for 'constructive work', called Nav-Nimran. The tribes have established the Narmada Jeevan Gaon (Narmada Village for Life), with trainings in land mapping, surveying, demarcation, education, house-construction, and on 'how to build a solar cooker'. They have also held a camp on women's health and on land rights of tribes. A team of activists from the anti-Coca-Cola struggle in Kerala also came to support them together with other activists from all over India.

The future looks grim for the Adivasis. As the monsoon rains flood the river and push the water level up everyday, the Adivasis are once again facing submergence at the hands of the Indian government and the Narmada Dam Project. The NBA has been fighting hard in the Supreme Court to reverse the government's decision and to stay the construction of the dam until rehabilitation and resettlement is complete, but so far all attempts have failed. They are up against the power of the government, the power of money, and the entire ideology of development as modernisation that has wreaked havoc all over the world.

For more information see www.narmada.org

REVOLUTION believes that the struggle of the Adivasi can only be won with the leadership of the Indian working class. Indian workers and the Adivasi people both have a common enemy in the shape of the Indian state which, in working for the capitalists, is inherently contradictory to the interests of the working class and the tribes of India. Only mass strike and direct action can make a difference.



REVOLUTION AT THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

by lukey
in
brixton

From October 14th to the 17th, the third European Social Forum will come to London. 50,000 activists from home and abroad will descend on the capital to discuss international politics and try to find a way forward for the anti-capitalist movement. REVOLUTION will be mobilising in force for the weekend and fighting for our ideas and politics amongst this huge international audience. We will be working with other organisations to host a Youth Assembly on the Thursday prior to the main forum where we hope to attract between 500 and 1000 young activists from across the continent. We invite you not only to join us but also to help us build for the event across Europe so that we can make it as big, exciting and militant as possible.

What is the ESF?

The European Social Forum is an international gathering of trade unions, NGOs, anarchists, communists, activist networks and social movements who make up the movement that has been out on the streets opposing the brutal capitalist globalisation we have seen since the early 1990s. It was originally kicked off by the organisations and activists that came together in 2001 in Porto Alegre at the first World Social Forum. This event that attracted a phenomenal 40,000 activists was a display of power by the anti-capitalist movement at a time when the rulers of the world – the multi-millionaires, billionaires and their political stooges were meeting to decide 'economic policy' – in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum.

The WSF made the call for regional forums and, subsequently, in November 2002 the first European Social Forum was held in Florence, Italy. It was a momentous event. At that point American imperialism was gearing up for the invasion of Iraq in the face of mass opposition from the people of the World. At the end of the forum activists came together with a million Italians in an incredible protest against the war. Earlier that day a meeting of the Assembly of Social Movements (the body that can decide on action at the ESF) made the call for an international mobilisation in every town and city of the world. Surely enough three months later on February 15th, 2003 between 20 and 30 million people across the globe took to the streets. It is making the call for action like this that makes the European Social Forum such an important event for our movement.

Right and Left?

Unfortunately the right wing of the movement, who initiated the World Social Forum process, doesn't want the ESF to take this kind of action. They tried to stop the Assembly in Florence making the call that it did, arguing that there should be no linkage between US imperialism launching a war against Iraq and the anti-globalisation movement. In reality, they were simply scared of launching a movement based on mass action and not passive reformist politics. Fortunately they were not successful in Florence.

The second forum in Paris did not make the same historic call to action on a specific day. A number of protests were called, notably the March 20th anti-war protests aimed at mimicking those of February 15th a year earlier and international action against the neo-liberal attacks of the EU and in defence of social gains on April 2nd and 3rd. The latter was only seriously taken up by the German and Austrian movement and the former was markedly smaller than the previous year's protests. This is because of the lack of decision-making in the ESF process, relying completely on the 'consensus' principle and the fact that the right wing don't want to build an action based anti-capitalist movement.

What REVOLUTION wants

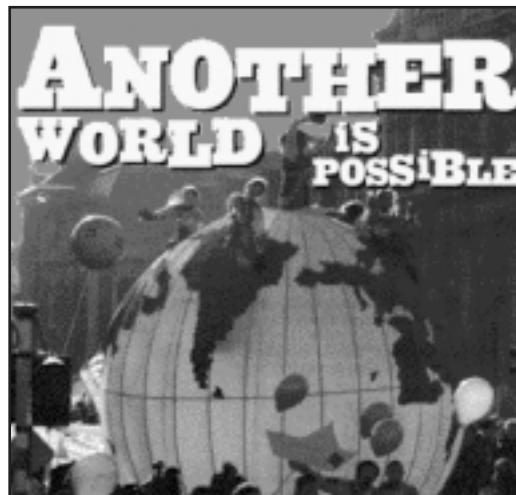
We want this year's ESF to produce a fiery declaration igniting a call to mass action against neo-liberalism, social cuts and war across Europe. As a youth organisation, we feel justifiably part of the fighting side of the movement, and have been involved since the very beginning

back in 1999 on the streets of London on June 18th Carnival Against Capital.

Since those early days young people have been at the fighting end of the movement on the streets of Seattle, Prague, Genoa, Evian, Buenos Aires, Cancun and everywhere. The Social Forums that draw together the activists who built these mobilisations and allow a forum to discuss the way forward are to be welcomed but they must not be allowed to degenerate into meaningless talk shops and 'spaces' that don't actually do anything. They must co-ordinate and lead mass action on the streets.



To do this means organising the most militant and angry section of the movement – the youth. In the leading committees of the ESF who make all the decisions youth are barely to be seen. No wonder the right wing can happily dominate and control the proceedings. At last year's ESF in Paris and at this year's WSF in Mumbai, we made the call for a revolutionary youth international. An international political organisation of young people that can formulate its own policy, elect its own leaderships and, crucially, lead mass action on the streets. We met a number of youth groups interested in our idea and have worked with those organisations to try to get a youth assembly on the agenda at this year's forum.



Organising for the ESF in London – A bureaucratic stitch up

Unfortunately the organisation of this year's ESF has been more right wing than ever. Ken Livingstone's (yes, our good mayor who made the May Day protest illegal three years ago) GLA is supporting the process and the British trade unions are on board as well. This is of course good in so far as they can both bring much needed resources to the event and the later can mobilise the thousands of militant trade unionists. However, their support has come at a cost. They want a nice event that will make 'Red' Ken look a bit (only a teeny bit) radical, provide a policy forum for the Labour Left, and that everyone goes home at the end looking forward to the next event the following year.

You might have guessed that they're not too keen on us then. The last thing they want is an event that can build a mass fighting radical movement across Europe that can wage war on capitalism! That's why they've blocked attempts by us to hold a Youth Assembly on the Thursday before the event. But, don't worry, we're going to do it anyway!

Not just the youth – we need the workers too

Even though we're a youth organisation we recognise we're not going to change the world on our own. We need the international working class to do that. That's why we don't just need a Youth Assembly at the ESF we also need the Assembly of Social Movements too. Needless to say the TUC and "Red" Ken have teamed up with the rest of the right wing to try and sideline this as well. REVOLUTION will link up with all the groups, organisations and individuals who want to make sure that it's at the centre of proceedings and will build for it across the weekend and before. It's this body that can, and must, lead the struggle against capitalism across Europe over the coming year. And it's this body that has the potential to go beyond being just a co-ordination but a real political organisation that can fight for the final overthrow of capitalism – the Fifth International.

6 steps to a successful ESF :

- 1) Come to the ESF
- 2) Help us build for the ESF
- 3) Come to the Youth Assembly on the Thursday
- 4) Help us try to build a Youth International at the Youth Assembly
- 5) Join us in fighting for a real anti-capitalist movement that takes action on the streets and not just a do nothing talk shop
- 6) Have a brilliant time over 4 days of chatting politics and partying with thousands of activists from across Europe

J18 - FIVE YEARS ON

This year we will see the fifth anniversary of the June 18th (J18) 'Stop the City- Carnival Against Capitalism' demonstrations that took place in London and across the world. For many, this demonstration marked the beginning of the anti-capitalist movement in Britain. This day of action was called by 'Peoples Global Action' - the anarchist/libertarian network that was involved in some of the major confrontations between the anti-capitalist movement and the capitalist states of the world. However, the J18 protests were also supported by a number of other organisations, including Revolution. One of our activists - who heroically defended the demonstrations from police attack in London - was actually sent down for 18 months as a result.

5 years on, we have to ask ourselves, how has the anti-capitalist movement developed and where is it going?

Since the late 1990's there's been a whole section of youth who have been radicalised by the right wing, neo-liberal policies of big business and their governments. Thousands of youth have taken to the streets in the fight against capitalism and the problems that it causes.

This movement was willing to take direct action from the start. There was none of the liberal, pacifist sentiment that the current leadership of the anti-war and social forum movements entertain. We said that the ruling classes were the enemy, and that they have to be smashed.

But the anti capitalist movement has so far failed to take the steps necessary to achieve its goals. It failed to bring on board the workers' movement and it failed to



take the organisational steps that could have given it the potential to truly take on the bosses. An insistence on consensus decision-making, loose principles and a failure to see that only the action of our class - the working class - can challenge the system of exploitation and war, have meant that now in current struggles (anti-war and social forums) the right wing - who certainly don't want to overthrow capitalism - have taken over undemocratically. There is a huge divide between the people who risk injury, arrest and even death on the streets in struggle and those who supposedly represent us in the speakers' platforms of demonstrations and international meetings.

This complaining is all very nice, but what do we actually propose?

Well, first of all we need to make sure that the movement is democratic from the outset. This requires the building of a clear, defined structure within the movement, as well as the complete rejection of consensus decision-making – we need votes.

We need to return to large scale direct action that was made famous by international mobilisations such as Seattle and Genoa, and the May Days of the late 90s..

Crucially to defeat capitalism, we need the workers movement. Only the working class - who can seize control of the factories and offices that they work in and lead a movement to smash the defence organisations of the capitalists – the army, state and police - and establish a workers state to defend the revolution. Only then can we achieve a genuinely classless society. So, all anti-capitalists should always support the struggle of the workers and link them up in a struggle against the entire system.

The anti-capitalist movement needs to become clearly defined around a revolutionary program. REVO believes that the only way this is possible is for the anti-capitalist movement to become a revolutionary socialist movement. We need a Fifth International that can fight for a revolution on a global scale that can finally end this brutal capitalist system and establish a socialist classless world.

BY JOSH IN HALIFAX

STOP PRESS: WRITE FOR REVOLUTION! BECOME A REVO CORRESPONDENT IN YOUR SCHOOL!

As REVO grows we want to include more articles, debates and ideas by school students from across the UK. It is tough being a young revolutionary, with your parents, peers and some teachers on your back giving you a hard time for your politics! Well REVO is here to help. Are you learning stuff in history that you think is a bit dodgy? Do you think the government is trying to pump your head full of propaganda, and is not telling you the truth about things like the Russian Revolution or fascism? If you have any questions about what is going on in the news - anything that you need an answer for - then get in touch and we will give you an answer that will silence your critics!

If you have something that you want to write about or any facts figures, opinions or reviews then send them in, our editorial board will look over them and your articles could get in! (No promises though, we are short of space!)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS?

From August 2nd – 6th REVOLUTION will be holding its third international gathering in Prague. Revocamp 2004 will bring together revolutionary youth from across the world to discuss politics, history and how to effectively organise to smash capitalism. (Woo hoo!!)

The current international situation - with attacks on the working class at home and imperialist wars abroad - mean that now, more than ever, it is important to organise across borders and continents. REVOCAMP offers the opportunity to discuss and decide the direction in which our part of the movement can go. Youth are not only an oppressed group in families, schools and workplaces, but are also tragically under-represented by the leadership of the movement. Youth have always played a crucial role in class struggles, whether it is in the anti-capitalist movement where we fought against police lines in Genoa and Seattle, in anti-fascist struggles like the Bradford battles in 2001 or the anti-war movement, in which youth made up the most militant and radical section.

It is this discrepancy between the large amount of activity that youth take part in and the small amount of power we are given over the movement that REVO wants to build an Independent Youth International - to fight our corner in every struggle and to give us a real platform in the mass movement. This internationalism is one of the reasons why global gatherings like REVOCAMP are important, Capitalism is international which means we have to organise internationally, too.

REVO's major project this year is the ESF in October in London (See page 10). We are fighting for a youth assembly that will launch an international troops out campaign, the aim of which is to get the imperialist butchers out of Iraq and bring down Blair and Bush. We want to found an independent revolutionary youth international there - the first time in history that this will happen. The political discussions at REVOCAMP will help us to organise that and make it a reality.

**So come to REVOCAMP
in Prague over August
one solution – revolution!**

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If you are young, radical, anti-capitalist and what to get involved in a revolutionary organisation then get in touch. Get a copy of our DIY guide to building REVOLUTION, go on the website and the web board to chat with other revolutionaries and see what is going on in your area!
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info@worldrevolution.org.uk
www.worldrevolution.org.uk

Send to: REVO, BCM 7750, London WC1N 3XX